

What is claimed is:

[Claim 1] In a process for batch filling containers with an oxidizing composition by means of filling equipment, the improvement comprising the step of passivating the filling equipment immediately prior to batch filling the containers with the oxidizing composition.

[Claim 2] The process for batch filling containers with an oxidizing composition according to claim 1 wherein the oxidizing composition includes a peroxygen compound.

[Claim 3] The process for batch filling containers with an oxidizing composition according to claim 2 wherein the oxidizing compound is hydrogen peroxide.

[Claim 4] The process for batch filling containers with an oxidizing composition according to claim 3 wherein the passivating step comprises flushing the filling equipment with an oxidizing agent.

[Claim 5] The process for batch filling containers with an oxidizing composition according to claim 4 wherein the oxidizing agent is a nitric acid composition.

[Claim 6] The process for batch filling containers with an oxidizing composition according to claim 1 wherein the passivating step comprises flushing filling equipment with an oxidizing agent.

[Claim 7] The process for batch filling containers with an oxidizing composition according to claim 6 wherein the oxidizing agent is a nitric acid composition.

[Claim 8] A process of orienting adjacent aerosol containers relative to a reference plane, wherein each container has a valve stem, a dip tube, a pick up point on the dip tube within the container and a longitudinal axis lying in the reference plane, the process comprising the steps of:

marking each container with a visual indicia at a predetermined relationship to the pick up point;

detecting the position of the visual indicia relative to the reference plane; and rotating each container until the visual indicia is within a predetermined oriented relationship to the reference plane.

[Claim 9] A process of orienting adjacent aerosol containers relative to a reference plane according to claim 8 and further comprising the step of securing two adjacent aerosol containers together in the predetermined oriented relationship to the reference plane.

[Claim 10] A process of orienting adjacent aerosol containers relative to a reference plane according to claim 9 wherein the securing step includes gluing the containers together.

[Claim 11] A process of orienting adjacent aerosol containers relative to a reference plane according to claim 10 wherein the securing step further includes the step of binding the containers together with a shrink-wrap material.

[Claim 12] A process of orienting adjacent aerosol containers relative to a reference plane according to claim 9 wherein the securing step includes the step of binding the containers together with a shrink-wrap material.

[Claim 13] A process of orienting adjacent aerosol containers relative to a reference plane according to claim 8 wherein the predetermined relationship is within about 45° of the reference plane.

[Claim 14] A process of orienting adjacent aerosol containers relative to a reference plane according to claim 13 wherein the predetermined relationship is within about 22° of the reference plane.

[Claim 15] A process of orienting adjacent aerosol containers relative to a reference plane according to claim 8 wherein the longitudinal axes of the adjacent aerosol containers lie within the reference plane and the containers are oriented so that the visual indicia of each of the adjacent containers are aligned in the same direction.

[Claim 16] A process of orienting adjacent aerosol containers relative to a reference plane according to claim 15 and further comprising the step of

securing two adjacent aerosol containers together in the predetermined relationship to the reference plane.

[Claim 17] A process of orienting adjacent aerosol containers relative to a reference plane according to claim 16 and further comprising the step of applying to the valve stems of the adjacent containers a dispensing actuator that has a dispensing opening that is directed along the reference plane.